

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

DWELLING HOUSES. By Professor W. H. CORFELD. M. D., 1880, pp. 160. \$2. Ver Norwood.

In this brief manual by a distinguished English professor of hygiene, the subject of the sanitary construction and arrangement of dwelling houses is treated, and not their architectural details. The author calls attention to a variety of points in domestic organization which, though perhaps familiar to theory, are, to a great extent, lost sight of and habitually neglected in practice. Many of them are especially applicable to the arrangement of apartment houses, which have come into such frequent use in New-York, as to demand the utmost vigilance both from proprietors and occupants. Professor Corfeld dwells with great emphasis on the injurious effects of damp soils upon the public health, consumption, the fearful plague both of English and American climates, which is fatal to far more persons than all the fevers put together, lung complaints of various kinds, rheumatism, and other diseases, prevalent on these soils, and when underlying the house, unless thoroughly drained, they inevitably lead to disease and death. The "moldy ground," as it is called, is also very undesirable for dwellings, and although improved in process of time by the action of air and water, no one would live in a house built on such ground if he could possibly avoid it. Several valuable suggestions are made in regard to the arrangements of receptacles for drinking water. Leaden chasers, as Professor Corfeld states, have long been in use on account of their durability, but are open to the same objections as lead pipes, although the mischief from that source has perhaps been overstated, especially when soft water is used. Galvanized iron cisterns are taking the place of leaden ones, they are very durable and of course much cheaper than lead. The use of wooden receptacles, such as tubs, barrels, and the like, should be discouraged, if only because it is so difficult to keep them thoroughly cleaned. A self-cleaning tank has been introduced to great advantage in London. All receptacles of water should be well covered in order to keep out the dust, but space should be left for ventilation between the water and the cover, by means of holes provided with a grating at the sides. Professor Corfeld offers some opportune hints, though not so full as might be wished, in regard to the use of gas both for lighting and fuel, which in the present attempt to increase the price of gas to an exorbitant rate will be of interest to every housekeeper who intends to provide a subtitle for the article.

THE SPILL-BOUND FIDDLER. A NORSE ROMANCE. By ALFRED JASCHON. Translated by AUGUST FUELER. With an Introduction, by RASMUS B. ANDERSEN. 12mo, pp. 161. Chicago: S. C. Griggs & Co.

The author of this Norwegian story is described as one of the most noted poets, novelists, and public speakers of that country, and a leading advocate of the establishment of a national language in his native land. He is at present on a visit to this country with the view of studying American institutions and meeting his countrymen in the Northwestern States. From the admirable introduction to the volume by Professor B. B. Andersen, we learn that the poems of Jaschon are pictures of the peasant life of Norway, and his descriptions derive a racy flavor from being written in the vernacular of the people. His composition betrays little effort, but his novels are highly spiced with the essential spirit of Norwegian life, and are wholesome as well as delightful reading. The present story departs, to a certain degree, from his accustomed mode, and gives the narrative in a more compact and artistic form. Jaschon is now about forty years of age, and of liberal religious views, a republican in politics, and of excellent social qualities. The story is founded on fact, relating certain passages in the life of Tormir, one of the greatest pretenders in music ever born in Norway, and whose name is a household word in every Norse family. Old Bull, who was a warm friend of Tormir, and was instrumental in procuring for him a hearing, is also a prominent figure in the book. The simple narrative can be read without a thrill of sympathy by the musical enthusiasts or the lover of natural household life. It appeals to the tenderest emotions of the heart, rather than to the recesses of the imagination, and will find the warmest reception among readers of the truest feeling.

ALASKA: AND MISSIONS ON THE NORTH PACIFIC COAST. BY SHELDON JACKSON. D. D. 12mo, pp. 327. Dodd, Mead, & Co.

The present condition of the native population of Alaska is described at considerable length by the author of this volume, who presents the results of his own experiences as a missionary, as well as the conclusions of previous writers on the subject. Dr. Sheldon commenced his labors as a Presbyterian missionary in Alaska in the summer of 1877, and since that time has been indefatigable in his efforts to spread the seeds of Christian civilization among a singularly ignorant and degraded people. During a large part of that period he was travelling in the United States for the benefit of the Mission, and whatever degree of success it attained appears to be due to his sound judgment, his talent for organization, and his Christian zeal and energy. The arrangement of his book is somewhat confused, it is by no means lucid in its details, and would not generally be deemed attractive reading; but it presents a vivid illustration of the power of evil inherent in human nature, and the importance of moral and vigorous training by means of social institutions to prevent it from falling below the level of the brute.

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